

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A hinged frame spreader device for maintaining a pair of frame sides spaced apart a desired distance during installation of a frame structure, the frame spreader device comprising:
- a first board and a second board hinged together in longitudinal linear alignment by a pivotable hinge connecting two inner edges of the boards to form a hinged frame
- 10 spreader board, each of the boards having an outer edge shape to conform to an inside profile of a side of a frame member aligned for installation to a wall structure, the hinged frame spreader board having a pre-set length to provide a desired spreader distance between a pair of sides of a frame equal to the length of the hinged frame spreader board, the hinged frame spreader board adapted for being pivoted into an angled configuration
- 15 to position the hinged frame spreader board between a pair of sides of a frame and the hinged frame spreader board further adapted for being pivoted into a straight linear configuration to contact a pair of sides of a frame and maintain a pair of sides of a frame spaced apart by the length of the hinged frame spreader board while installing a frame in a wall structure.
- 20 2. The frame spreader device of claim 1 further comprising at least one additional pre-set length add-on section hinged by a pivotable hinge to at least one of the ends of the hinged frame spreader board, the at least one add-on section adapted for being

unfolded into a straight position aligned with the straightened position of the hinged frame spreader board and extending from the at least one end in linear alignment with the hinged frame spreader board to form a longer hinged frame spreader board and adapted for being pivoted into a folded over position onto the spreader board for a shorter hinged frame spreader board to fit between a variety of differently spaced frame sides.

3. The frame spreader device of claim 2 wherein the at least one add-on section has an outer edge shape to conform to an inside profile of a side of a frame member aligned for installation to a wall structure to insure a precision fit for an exact spreader distance and the at least one add-on section has an inner edge shape to conform to the at least one outer edge shape of the hinged frame spreader board in the folded over position.

4. The frame spreader device of claim 1 wherein the first board comprises an elongated board having a smooth inner edge and the second board comprises a short board having a mating smooth inner edge, the two boards interconnecting along the smooth edges by a hinged connection.

5. The frame spreader device of claim 4 wherein each of the outer edges of the two boards comprises an end face having a recessed center opening adapted for receiving a door stop therein and the first board is equal in length to a distance between a pair of inner faces of a pair of door stops on a pair of sides of a frame and the second

board is equal in length to a double thickness of a door stop, so that the frame spreader device is adapted for alternately being positioned in a first position with the add-on section in linear alignment with the first board with a door stop fitting within each of the recessed center openings and in a second position with the add-on section pivoted on top
5 of the first board with the end faces contacting the inner faces of the pair of door stops for a pair of wider door stops which do not fit in the recessed center openings.

6. The frame spreader device of claim 1 further comprising at least one elevating member on each of the boards adapted for accommodating the thickness of the
10 hinge.